

REPUBLICANS

JEFF MILLER, FLORIDA, CHAIRMAN.

DOUG LAMBORN, COLORADO
GUS M. BILIRAKIS, FLORIDA
DAVID P. ROE, TENNESSEE
DAN BENISHEK, MICHIGAN
TIM HUELSKAMP, KANSAS
MIKE COFFMAN, COLORADO
BRAD R. WENSTRUP, OHIO
JACKIE WALORSKI, INDIANA
RALPH ABRAHAM, LOUISIANA
LEE ZELDIN, NEW YORK
RYAN COSTELLO, PENNSYLVANIA
AMATA RADEWAGEN, AMERICAN SAMOA
MIKE BOST, ILLINOIS

JON TOWERS, STAFF DIRECTOR

DEMOCRATS

CORRINE BROWN, FLORIDA, RANKING

MARK TAKANO, CALIFORNIA
JULIA BROWNLEY, CALIFORNIA
DINA TITUS, NEVADA
RAUL RUIZ, CALIFORNIA
ANN M. KUSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE
BETO O'ROURKE, TEXAS
KATHLEEN RICE, NEW YORK
JERRY MCNERNEY, CALIFORNIA
TIMOTHY J. WALZ, MINNESOTA

DON PHILLIPS
DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

335 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

<http://veterans.house.gov>

May 21, 2015

The Honorable Robert A. McDonald
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary,

As you have undoubtedly seen, this afternoon the House of Representatives passed the Construction Authorization and Choice Improvement Act. This action raised the authorization cap for the Denver replacement medical center project to \$900 million to, in the short-term, allow the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to use available funds to continue the project.

While I think this is a positive step forward, the serious concerns that I raised in my letter to you yesterday remain. Namely, that VA's plan to correct this debacle has not been adequately defined or prioritized to the degree that this Congress or the American people can have any confidence that it will proceed without further failures, delays, cost overruns, mismanagement, or a lack of transparency and accountability.

Therefore, I request that the Department provide Congress with a considered plan for moving forward responsibly. This plan should include: (1) a thorough detailing of the final costs of this project; (2) a full explanation for where the \$150 million in fiscal year (FY) 2015 funds that VA has proposed be reallocated are coming from and how they will be used; (3) a final completion date; (4) a comprehensive description of how the Department intends to fund the remaining \$620 million delta between the total project cost and the available funds you have identified to date; and, (5) the names, titles, and disciplinary actions taken against any and all individuals deemed by the Department to have played a role in the historic failure that this project has come to represent. In formulating this plan and the road ahead in Denver, I encourage you to work with the President to identify existing resources in other Departments or agencies that could be reallocated to this effort and to break down any bureaucratic barriers that may exist to holding those responsible for this mess to account.

Should you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Jon Towers, Majority Staff Director, at (202) 225-3527.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your work on behalf of our nation's veterans.

Sincerely,

JEFF MILLER
Chairman

JM/ch/sg

Cc: The Honorable Corrine Brown, Ranking Member